

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 05603 070856Z

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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INFO AMEMBASSY MASERU

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UNCLAS PRETORIA 5603

USIA FOR IOP/M, IAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: RSA PRESS ON AAI CONFERENCE, CONGRESSMEN DIGGS,
YOUNG, DEC. 5/6

SUMMARY: CONTINUED REACTION TO LAST WEEK'S AAI CONFERENCE
IN MASERU, WITH EMPHASIS ON STATEMENTS BY DIGGS AND YOUNG.
EDITORIALS REFLECTED UNPOPULARITY OF DIGGS AND CREDIBILITY
OF YOUNG WITH RSA WHITES. NO COMMENT IN BLACK NEWSPAPER.

1. POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT OF NATIONALLY CIRCULATED "SUNDAY
TIMES," FLEUR DE VILLIERS WHO COVERED MASERU CONFERENCE,
BELIEVED IT IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO AFFECT AFRICA POLICY OF NEW
ADMINISTRATION. "OUTSIDE FORCES HAVE GIVEN THE CONFERENCE
AN IMPORTANCE WHICH RSA CANNOT IGNORE. FIRST IS THE
COMING INAUGURATION OF JIMMY CARTER. SECOND IS THE SIX
MONTHS OF VIOLENCE IN RSA WHICH HAS DRAMATICALLY HAR-
DENED USA ATTITUDES....AND THE CONFERENCE WAS ATTENDED
BY CONGRESSMEN WHO HAVE NEVER VISITED AFRICA BEFORE BUT
WHO REALIZE IT HAS NOW MOVED OUT OF THE POLITICAL
SHADOWS AND THEREFORE MERITS THEIR ATTENTION."

2. IN SECOND ARTICLE ON ANDREW YOUNG, DE VILLIERS SAID
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UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PRETOR 05603 070856Z

HE WAS MOST SIGNIFICANT DELEGATE AND QUOTED HIS

STATEMENT THAT "I DON'T BELIEVE IN PRESSURE. YOU CANNOT FORCE PEOPLE TO DO WHAT THEY DON'T WANT TO DO. INSTEAD WE MUST HELP RSA SEE WHAT IS IN HER BEST INTERESTS, THOSE OF THE USA AND THE REST OF THE WORLD." DE VILLIERS ADDED. "FOR THE LAST THREE DAYS FELLOW DELEGATES AT THE AAI CONFERENCE TALKED OF LITTLE ELSE BUT HOW BEST THEY COULD PRESSURE THE HATED COUNTRY ACROSS THE BORDER INTO A PERCEPTION OF REALITY AND MAJORITY RULE. BUT CONGRESSMAN YOUNG IS A SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT BREED OF CAT. NO MATTER WHAT SENATOR CLARK OR CONGRESSMAN DIGGS MIGHT DO, IT IS WHAT YOUNG SAYS THAT WILL COUNT WHEN THE NEW USA PRESIDENT FORMULATES HIS SOUTHERN AFRICA POLICY."

3. "SUNDAY TIMES" EDITORIALIZED "GENTLE PERSUASION OR SHRILL AND SILLY RHETORIC. THIS IN ESSENCE WAS THE DIFFERENCE IN THE TWO AMERICAN VOICES SOUTH AFRICANS HEARD THIS WEEK AS THEY WAITED IN SOME TREPIDATION FOR USA PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER TO UNVEIL HIS SOUTHERN AFRICA POLICY. THE RHETORIC, CAME, AS USUAL, FROM CHARLES DIGGS, A TIRESOME POLITICIAN MORE INTENT ON IMPRESSING A CONSTITUENCY BACK HOME THAN ON MAKING A REAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE SOLUTION OF SOUTH AFRICA'S PROBLEMS. AND, AS USUAL, THE EFFECT OF MR. DIGGS' DEMANDS WAS MERELY TO STIFFEN WHITE RESISTANCE TO CHANGE. BUT IF MR. DIGGS SUCCEEDS ONLY IN DEAFENING WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS WITH HIS EMPTY CLAMOUR, THEY SHOULD LISTEN MORE ACUTELY TO THE QUIET VOICE OF FELLOW BLACK CONGRESSMAN ANDREW YOUNG, WHO SPEAKS TO THE MAN WHO WILL COUNT IN WASHINGTON FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS, JIMMY CARTER. MR. YOUNG IS A SOUTHERNER AND A PRODUCT OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT. AS SUCH HE IS IMPLACABLE OPPONENT OF APARTHEID -- BUT HE ALSO UNDERSTANDS WHITE FEARS AND KNOWS THAT THE BEST WAY TO DIFFUSE THEM IS NOT BY WILD RANTING, BUT THROUGH EFFECTIVE PERSUASION....AND SOUTHERNERS LIKE MR YOUNG AND MR CARTER WHO UNDERSTAND THE FORCE OF WHITE PREJUDICES WILL TALK TO PRETORIA IN A LANGUAGE IT UNDERSTANDS."

4. "CAPE TOWN ENGLISH PAPER "CAPE TIMES" EDITORIALIZED DEC. 6 ON "THE OFFENSIVE MR DIGGS WHO PONTIFICATED ON RSA'S SHORT COMINGS." PAPER SAID DIGGS "DID LITTLE TO UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 PRETOR 05603 070856Z

ADVANCE THE BLACK CAUSES HE SPOUSES WITH SUCH UNDISCIPLINED VIGOR. HE HAS A STYLE OF OPERATING WHICH IS BOTH OFFENSIVE AND EMBARRASSING TO THOSE WHO EXPECT REASONABLE STANDARDS FROM MEN WHO ENTER PUBLIC DEBATE. HIS ILL-CONSIDERED COMMITMENT TO TOTAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ISOLATION FOR RSA IS A SHORT SIGHTED EXERCISE THAT HOPEFULLY WILL DRAW NO APPLAUSE FROM BLACK SOUTH AFRICANS HE SEEKS TO AID.....BUT HOWEVER OFFENSIVE HIS PRESENTATION MAY BE,

ONE CANNOT DISMISS THE UNPALATABLE FACT THAT HE REPRESENTS A SUBSTANTIAL BODY OF WORLD OPINION. IT MUST BE FACED THAT THE SAG'S UNWILLINGNESS TO MAKE EVEN MODERATE CHANGES GIVES A POLITICIAN LIKE MR DIGGS A CREDIBILITY HE DOES NOT DESERVE."

5. CAPE TOWN AFRIKAANS PAPER "DIE BURGER" EDITORIALIZED DEC. 6 "FOREIGN POLICY IS A FUNCTION OF INTERNAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND THE RIGHTS OF BLACK AMERICANS, IS A SENSITIVE FACTOR IN AMERICAN POLITICS. THE USG CANNOT AFFORD TO BE SEEN INTIMATELY ASSOCIATED WITH RACISM, ESPECIALLY WHITE RACISM. OTHER KINDS OF RACISM ARE NOT IN THE SAME LEAGUE. THE MASERU CONFERENCE SHOULD BE SEEN AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND. THE AMERICAN DELEGATES PROJECTED THEIR OWN CIVIL RIGHTS STRUGGLE TO THE AFRICAN SCENE. THEY WISHED TO EXTEND THEIR SUCCESSES AT HOME TO AFRICA. BUT EMOTIONALISM BLINDS THEM TO THE FULL REALITIES OF THE AFRICAN SITUATION. THEIR CHOICE OF THE LESOTHO DICTATORSHIP AS A VENUE ILLUSTRATES THEIR MISCOMPREHENSION." EDITORIAL CONCLUDED "THE VOICES FROM MASERU DO NOT REFLECT THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION."

6. JOHANNESBURG ENGLISH PAPER "THE CITIZEN" DEC. 6 CITED DIGGS REITERATION IN BLOEMFONTEIN THAT HE SAW NO "CHANGE" IN RSA. REPORT QUOTED DIGGS SAYING DESEGREGATION OF FACILITIES (REMOVAL OF PETTY APARTHEID) DID NOT CONSTITUTE CHANGE. DIGGS SAID "REAL CHANGE IS THE SHARIN OF POLITICAL POWER, OR AT LEAST OR ECONOMIC POWER AND EDUCATION FACILITIES. I DON'T SUPPORT ARMED STRUGGLE -- THAT IS THE BOTTOM LINE, IF ALL ELSE FAILS. BUT THE USA MUST USE ECONOMIC SANCTION TO FORCE THE SAG TO CHANGE ITS APARTHEID POLICY."

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 PRETOR 05603 070856Z

7. JOHANNESBURG AFRIKAANS PAPER "BEELD" DEC. 6 CARRIED FRONT PAGE REPORT ON ALLEGED EXPENSES OF AMERICAN DELEGATES TO AAI CONFERENCE. REPORT QUOTED SCRIPSS-HOWARD NEWSPAPERS' ALLEGATION IN USA THAT ELEVEN OF THE AMERICAN DELEGATES EITHER FLEW FIRST CLASS TO LESOTHO AT STATE DEPARTMENT EXPENSE OR USED USAF PLANE TO TRANSPORT FAMILIES AND AIDES. REPORT SAID USAF PLANE COST AMERICAN TAX-PAYERS 57 THOUSAND DOLLARS.

8. JOHANNESBURG ENGLISH PAPER "RAND DAILY MAIL" DEC. 6 CARRIED REPORT FROM WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT GUY BERNARD THAT "EVEN IF THE NEXT AMBASSADOR TO RSA ISN'T BLACK HE WILL PROBABLY HAVE A BLACK BOSS IN WASHDC -- PROBABLY ANDREW YOUNG. IT IS NOW OPEN TALK AMONG

CARTERITES THAT A BLACK WILL BE MADE SPECIAL UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AFRICA AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT -- CREATING A NEW POST. HE WOULD OUTRANK NOT ONLY THE PRESENT US AMBASSADOR IN PRETORIA, MR WILLIAM BOWDLER, BUT ALSO THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS MR. WILLIAM SCHAUFELLE. THE OBJECT OF THE EXERCISE WILL BE TO DEMONSTRATE A DEDICATION TO A NEW-LOOK US POLICY IN AFRICA....TO REBUILD USA CREDIBILITY IN BLACK AFRICA AS A LEADER OF THE FREE WORLD -- CLEARLY COMMITTED TO MAJORITY RULE WITH SAFEGUARDS FOR MINORITIES -- A COMMITMENT THAT RUSSIA JUST CANNOT MATCH."

9. SAME PAPER CARRIED REPORT FROM LOCAL POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT WHO COVERED AAI CONFERENCE. CORRESPONDENT SAID THAT AFTER "EXTENSIVE INQUIRIES WITH AMERICAN AUTHORITIES BOTH IN RSA AND LESOTHO" HE CONCLUDED "USA LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY CHANGES TO FORCE ECONOMIC SANCTIONS, DISINVESTMENT OR EVEN WITHDRAWAL OF TAX CREDITS TO AMERICAN OWNED COMPANIES IN RSA ARE UNLIKELY TO MATERIALIZE AT LEAST FOR A YEAR OR MORE, IF AT ALL." BUT REPORT CONCLUDED "PUBLIC UTTERANCES, SPEECHES AND STATEMENTS FROM THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY BE FAR MORE CONDEMNATORY OF RSA RACE POLICIES AND PRACTICES COMPARED WITH FORD AND NIXON ADMINISTRATIONS."

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PAGE 05 PRETOR 05603 070856Z

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